



October 1, 2013

Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

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First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

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Third District

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Fourth District

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Fifth District

TO: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

SUBJECT: **GRANT FROM BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA
FOUNDATION FOR COMPLETION OF THE ECONSULT
SPECIALTY GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.
Deputy Director Strategic Planning

This is to advise the Board that the Department of Health Services (DHS) is preparing to bring forth recommendations for consideration and approval in order to extend the period of a \$500,000 grant award from Blue Shield of California Foundation (BSCF), as well as an extension of the term of an Agreement with National Health Foundation (NHF) for fiscal intermediary and project management services related to the grant to enable completion of the eConsult Specialty Guideline Development Project

313 N Figueroa Street, Suite 912
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel: (213) 240-8101
Fax: (213) 481-0503

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The Board initially approved acceptance of the above mentioned grant on March 27, 2012 for a one year period to fund facilitation, development, and implementation of clinical guidelines and co-management strategies (clinical content) for eConsult. At that time, the Board also delegated authority to the Director or his designee to extend the period of the grant for a period not to exceed six months. The one year grant period identified in the initial BSCF grant authorization letter sent to DHS was January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. However, subsequent to Board approval of the grant acceptance that identified the aforementioned grant period, BSCF reissued the grant authorization letter and grant Agreement for the one year period April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013 in order to ensure that DHS had sufficient time to complete the innovative eConsult project. Subsequently, BSCF agreed to extend the grant Agreement period for six months, through September 30, 2013.

A combination of project efficiencies and temporal differences in work group development of referral guidelines translated into the grant funding not being fully expended during the initial project timeframe. A

project time extension will allow remaining BSCF grant funds to be expended through workgroups focusing on additional DHS specialty services becoming eConsult ready. BSCF is satisfied with current reported project outcomes and is fully supportive of a further extension of the grant period to allow us to continue implementation of this key initiative. BSCF advised us last week that their board has requested that the agreement to extend the grant award period be done in writing. This is beyond the current authority the Board delegated to DHS and therefore requires approval by the Board.

In concert with approving acceptance of the BSCF grant on March 27, 2012, the Board also delegated authority to DHS to enter into the NHF Agreement to act as the fiscal intermediary and project manager for the grant-funded eConsult project to ensure proper administration of the grant funds during the life of the project. Additionally, the Board delegated authority to DHS to amend this Agreement to extend the term for up to six months. The NHF Agreement currently expires on December 7, 2013. It is vitally important to extend the term of the NHF Agreement sufficiently, as NHF serves as both workgroup convener and payer to the physicians and consultants who have made significant progress in developing the clinical guidelines necessary for eConsult implementation and its future expansion. DHS is targeting the Board agenda of November 12, 2013 for a letter requesting approval to extend the grant award period, as well as the NHF Agreement.

In the event you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Dr. Hal Yee, Chief Medical Officer, at (213) 240-7989.

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c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors